Reviewer's report

Title: Percutaneous septal ablation for left mid-ventricular obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 1 May 2005

Reviewer: Lothar Faber

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper describes a case of midcavity obstructive HCM successfully treated by septal ablation. Comparable cases have been reported previously. Due to the relative rarity of the condition, however, additional cases deserve to be published.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
No follow-up data are given that cover >5 days. CK rise in the case described was rather high, ST elevation is not a routine ECG finding in our practice. To exclude unnecessary LV damage, and due to the fact that the success of an ablation procedure (gradient elimination without deterioration of global LV function) usually is judged after a 3-6 months remodeling process, the authors should add follow-up results covering this time period.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The term “telecardiography” is unknown to the reviewer and possibly to the readers. The use of echoovist in septal ablation should be commented upon - total AV block and VF have been reported with its use. Levovist appears to be the appropriate echo contrast agent for septal ablation. The authors also should add an additional figure that precisely shows that the papillary muscles were not at risk for alcohol necrosis - this is a well-known problem in treating midcavity cases. The description of technique should be revised: what is meant by appropriate balloon position? Was the balloon advanced, withdrawn, or otherwise replaced?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

I am sorry for the delay that occurred due to vacations!